

Statement

Janet McKerral- Passenger

Four (4) pages total including this cover

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I was one of the last 4 passengers remaining on the boat after the other passengers had been rescued. There were two Canadian passengers who could not swim. The boat was already submerged and the passengers were up to their shoulders in water. The Captain was doing nothing to assist.

I tried to dive down under the water to get life jacket from under the seats. One compartment had no life jacket - some sort of wooden plank was inside

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The second compartment the bolts did not come undone quickly - They are slow and ~~get~~ awkward (this is under ^{Three} ~~3~~ feet of water). You need to

consider some sort of quick release mechanism. Once the door was open the jackets do not pull out easily.

I could only get one jacket for two passengers who could not swim. If the jackets had been more easily available I could have got more.

Please reconsider the bolts and replace with quick release.

Why did the captain also not help get life jackets / also ~~but~~ he did not radio for help.

There was time between the vessel taking water in and going down to radio for help and to give the instructions to put on life jackets.

It was fortunate that another vessel was passing to lift passengers otherwise the situation ~~was~~ could have been worse. The captain should have ~~not~~ told people to put life jackets on when he realised the bilge pumps were not functioning - Asking people to move to front/side was not the ideal solution. At this point he should have asked people to put life jackets on.